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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 25, 2016

Jody Pugh
Assistant Manager
National Security Missions
NNSA/Los Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael T. Brandt
Associate Director
Environment, Safety, Health
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS-M991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

RE: APPROVAL
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY NITRATE SALT-BEARING WASTE CONTAINER ISOLATION PLAN, REVISION 5
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-16-MISC

Dear Ms. Pugh and Mr. Brandt:

On May 19, 2014, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued an administrative Order (Order) requiring the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, LLC (collectively, the Permittees) to submit a Nitrate Salt-Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan (Plan). The Plan was received by NMED on May 21, 2014, and was then subsequently modified on July 10, 2014; April 27, 2015, May 8, 2015, August 12, 2015, and January14, 2016.

NMED received Revision 5 of the Isolation Plan, referenced by LA-UR-16-21411, on March 11, 2016. NMED has reviewed the submittal and hereby approves Revision 5 of the Plan with the following comments:

1. **Part I, page 3:**
   NMED notes that the reference to "Revision 4" should be replaced with "Revision 5". Please provide a replacement page to correct this error.

2. **Part II, Section 11, page 7:**
   This section should be revised to reflect that the NMED and the Permittees have already received the corrected manifest from Waste Control Specialists. Provide a replacement page with the appropriate revisions.

3. **Part II, Section 15, page 23:**
   This Section summarizes the headspace gas sampling procedures for Standard Waste Boxes (SWBs) in the event elevated headspace gas concentrations are observed in SWBs. However, the Permittees are proposing to remove the lids of the SWBs to add pressure relief devices with supplemental filters to the 55-gallon containers within the SWBs currently stored in the 54-375 Permacon. The Permittees must revise this Section to describe how headspace gas monitoring will be conducted on the 55-gallon containers in the SWBs in Permacon 375, and what additional safety measure the operators will implement in the event elevated headspace gas concentrations are detected. Please provide a replacement page with the appropriate revisions

The Permittees must submit the replacement pages by April 15, 2016. Should you have any questions, please contact Siona Briley at (505) 476-6049.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Roberts
Director, Resource Protection Division
New Mexico Environment Department

cc: J. Kieling, NMED HWB
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
S. Briley, NMED HWB
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File: LANL2016. Nitrate Salt-Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, Revision 5 March, 2016.